

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/S:TRPICKERING:AL

APPROVED BY S/S:THOMAS R. PICKERING

EUR - MR. STABLER

WH - GEN. SCOWCROFT (SUBSTANCE)

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

DOD - GEN. TAYLOR (INFORMED)

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Z 121509Z OCT 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 202479

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MARR

SUBJECT: LAJES FLIGHTS

EYES ONLY FOR CHARGE

1. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, OR IF HE IS NOT AVAILABLE WITH A SENIOR OFFICIAL WHO HAS HIS TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.
2. YOU SHOULD INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SEE HIM TO EXPLAIN THAT OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS WE WILL WISH TO-USE THE LAJES BASE FOR THE FLIGHT OF CHARTERED CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT TO ISRAEL. THE AIRCRAFT ARE CHARTERED BY THE UNITED STATES DEFENSE DEPARTMENT. THE FLIGHTS WILL BE CARRYING URGENTLY NEEDED MILITARY ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT TO ISRAEL. WE WILL AVERAGE 10 TO 20 FLIGHTS A DAY. THEY WILL STOP IN LAJES FOR CREW CHANGE AND REFUELING. THEY WILL TOUCH DOWN NOWHERE ELSE ON THEIR WAY TO OR FROM ISRAEL. WE WILL WANT TO BEGIN FLIGHTS TONIGHT.

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- 3- WE BELIEVE THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE FRANKLY INFORMED OF OUR INTENTIONS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT AT THE BARE MINIMUM THEY WOULD RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT AS TO THE USE OF THE BASE.

WE WISH OF COURSE TO AVOID THEIR REFUSING TO PERMIT
US TO USE THIS BASE.

4. YOU MAY TELL THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WE CONSIDER
THIS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN
THE BALANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO SEEK A NEGOTIATED
SOLUTION WHICH WILL BRING A DURABLE PEACE TO THE
REGION. WE WILL NOT FORGET PORTUGUESE HELP AND
COOPERATION IN THIS EFFORT.

5. YOU SHOULD INFORM THE PORTUGUESE THAT THIS ACTIVITY
IS BEING CARRIED ON AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF A LARGE
SOVIET AERIAL RESUPPLY EFFORT IN EGYPT, SYRIA AND IRAQ
WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS.

6. WE HOPE AND TRUST THE PORTUGUESE WILL RESPECT OUR
CONFIDENCE IN THIS MATTER. WE INTEND NO PUBLICITY.
WE OF COURSE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT OVER TIME THE
FLIGHTS WILL ESCAPE PUBLIC NOTICE. IF THEY COME
TO PUBLIC NOTICE WE INTEND TO SAY ONLY THAT OUR
ONGOING SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP TO ISRAEL IS OF COURSE
WELL KNOWN; WE NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY SPECIFIC
INFORMATION RELATING TO THAT RELATIONSHIP.

7. WE ARE ALSO CALLING IN PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TODAY
TO INFORM HIM OF YOUR APPROACH TO PATRICIO AND TO
REQUEST HIS SUPPORT FOR OUR DEMARCHE. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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